Customs Duty on Metallurgical Coke from China

3262. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs Duty on imports of Metallurgical Coke from China for Pig Iron Manufactures (bulk importers) and iron manufactures, using Corex Technology, is five per cent, while it is 15 per cent for others, including Ferro Alloys Units;

(b) whether Ferro Alloys Producers Association (FAPA), who use only less than five per cent of total imports, has represented to Ministry of Steel for reduction in Customs Duty; and

(c) whether the Ministry has considered their request favourably; if so, the action taken by Government to rescue Ferro Alloys Units and to make them competitive internationally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the budget proposals for 2002-03 Ministry of Steel had recommended reduction in import duty on Met Coke from 15% to 5% for Ferro Alloy producers and COREX units. However the concession has been granted only to the COREX units in the Union Budget 2002-03. Subsequently Ministry of Steel has again taken up the matter with Department of Revenue and has requested for a similar reduction in custom duty on Metcoke for the Ferro Alloy producers.

Loans to Tata Steel and SAIL

†3263. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major steel manufacturers, Tata Steel and Steel Authority of India, had been given loan out of Steel Development Fund, in the recent years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.